

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00047 121654Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 DODE-00 /041 W

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O P 121520Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1777

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0047

JIDDA FOR AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, BA

SUBJECT : RANGER/DLI TRAINING FOR BAHRAIN

REF : A. MANAMA 0025

B. JIDDA 0196

1. FOR AMBASSADOR AKINS: APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT INTERVENTION IN GETTING THIS PETTY TEMPEST BACK WITHIN THE TEAPOT. LT.COL. SMITH OF USMTM VISITED US JANUARY 12 AT GENERAL HILL'S REQUEST TO EXPRESS QUITE GRACIOUS APOLOGIES. I HAVE POINTED OUT THE PROCEDURAL/JURISDICTIONAL NICETIES INVOLVED. THE AIR IS NOW CLEAR AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. I HAVE ASKED COL. SMITH TO CONVEY TO GENERAL HILL MY APPRECIATION FOR THE COURTESY OF THE VISIT, MY SYMPATHY WITH USMTM'S PROFESSIONAL CONCERN FOR PROPER TRAINING PREPARATION, AND MY CONTINUING GRATITUDE FOR USMTM'S INFORMAL HELP TO THIS EMBASSY. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ALSO PASSING THESE SENTIMENTS TO GENERAL HILL.

2. FOR ARP. SHOULD QUESTION ARISE THROUGH CONUS MILITARY TRAINING CHANNELS, FOLLOWING IS SUBSTANCE OF PROBLEM: BDF OFFICERS MAY OR MAY NOT BE PHYSICALLY QUALIFIED FOR RANGER TRAINING. WE HAVE TRIED OVER SIX MONTHS TO DAMPEN GOB'S  
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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00047 121654Z

ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS TRAINING, AND (WITH COOPERATION USMTMSA)

TO POINT OUT PHYSICAL RIGORS INVOLVED. BDF, WHICH WANTS THIS TRAINING FOR PRESTIGE PURPOSES AND ON THAT UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN OFFERED IT AS CASH CUSTOMER FOR DIPLOMATIC REASONS, INSISTS OFFICERS ARE QUALIFIED PHYSICALLY. AFTER MONTHS OF HELPFUL INFORMAL PARTICIPATION CHECKING OUT THIS QUESTION USMTM, WELL PAST 11TH HOUR, HAS RAISED DIPLOMATIC QUESTION OF RISK OF SENDING BAHRAINI OFFICERS TO U.S. FOR TRAINING WHEN THEY MIGHT NOT PASS ENTRANCE PHYSICAL. EMBASSY MADE FINAL EFFORT TO CAUTION BDF ON THIS PROBLEM, OFFERING USMTM SERVICES TO PRE-TEST OFFICERS ON PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS. BDF TURNED US DOWN FLAT, AND WE SO INFORMED USMTM. WE ARE PREPARED TO SEE BDF OFFICERS TURNED BACK AT GATE OF RANGER TRAINING IF THEY FLUNK THE PHYSICAL OR TO SEE THEM FLUNK OUT ALONG THE WAY. ALTHOUGH WE SHARE USMTM CONCERNS WE CAN NOT PATRONIZE GOB. WE AND THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES OF SENDING OFFICERS TO U.S. TO TRY THEIR LUCK. CHUSMTM MESSAGE IN QUESTION, SENT IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AS WELL AS MILITARY ONES, QUESTIONED WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A DIPLOMATIC NOT A MILITARY JUDGEMENT INVOLVING MOREOVER A STATE TO WHICH CHUSMTM IS NOT ACCREDITED. HENCE MY REACTION.

3. SINCE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE AT HAND IS SO TRIFLING IN GENERAL SCHEME OF THINGS IT WAS WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE THAT I TROUBLED EMBASSY JIDDA AND ARP, WHEN THEY HAVE MANY MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO CONTEND WITH. I PLEAD IN DEFENSE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLE INVOLVED, WHICH GENERAL HILL, WHO DID NOT SEE THE MESSAGE IN QUESTION, SO OBVIOUSLY SUPPORTS WHOLEHEARTEDLY. TWINAM

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** MASS, BA  
**To:** JIDDA  
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